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**Sent:** Wed 11/2/2016 1:35:36 PM  
**Subject:** Morning Clips

## **EPA plans regional recycling summit**

By JONATHAN AUSTIN Daily News Staff

Nov, 2, 2016, 5 hrs ago

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is co-sponsoring a December recycling summit in San Juan to focus Caribbean islands on waste reduction, recycling and composting.

“The summit is going to be designed to gather information from all sectors,” said Claudia Gutierrez, a senior adviser on sustainability and environmental experience for the EPA. “We’re going to try to get us working on specific issues we can tackle on short- and long-term topics.”

EPA Regional Administrator Judith Enck will lead the two-day conference, along with EPA Caribbean Director Carmen Guerrero and representatives from the U.S. Agriculture Department and representatives from the governments in Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and a number of international islands.

Gutierrez said the program will address the economics of waste reduction, recycling and clean composting.

She said the issues facing small islands and territories are profound, “not having a lot of people and the transportation issues.” Yet all Caribbean islands could benefit with the creation of recycling clearinghouses on Puerto Rico that could accept materials from across the region, according to Gutierrez.

She said recycling partnerships in the territory and in Puerto Rico will focus on “bringing new businesses to the islands to create market” for recyclables in order to keep them out of the landfill.

“The summit is to specifically launch strategies that will benefit the local economy,” she said, including U.S. islands and others that could benefit.

She said representatives from waste-management agencies in the British Virgin Islands and Jamaica also plan to attend. Involving other nations will only make any recycling facilities on Puerto Rico more economical, she said. “We want Puerto Rico to have more markets. The more they receive, the better return you will have,” she said. The efforts can “create local jobs and improve the environment.”

V.I. Department of Planning and Natural Resources Commissioner Dawn Henry will attend, she said, as well as representatives from the Waste Management Authority.

Registration and conference details can be found at <https://caribbeanrecycling.eventbrite.com>. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

— Contact Jonathan Austin at 340-714-9104 or email [jaustin@dailynews.vi](mailto:jaustin@dailynews.vi).

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## **Companies Agree to Settle West Virginia Chemical Spill Suit: West Virginia American Water to pay up to \$126 million, Eastman Chemical \$25 million to release civil claims without admitting fault for 2014 leak**

By Kris Maher

Updated Nov. 1, 2016 8:26 p.m. ET

Wall St. Journal

A water company and a chemical manufacturer agreed to pay up to a total of \$151 million to settle a civil lawsuit brought on behalf of more than 200,000 West Virginia residents whose water was contaminated by a chemical spill in early 2014.

On Jan. 9, 2014, an estimated 10,000 gallons of a chemical mixture used to process coal leaked from a storage tank into the Elk River and entered Charleston’s drinking water system, operated by West Virginia American Water Co. Eastman

Chemical Co. manufactured the chemical, known as Crude MCHM.

Residents were unable to use their tap water for up to nine days, before the chemical was flushed from distribution pipes, and many complained of physical symptoms and financial losses. The case also exposed gaps in federal regulation.

Attorneys for a class of 224,000 individuals and 7,900 businesses alleged in a federal lawsuit that the water company failed to adequately prepare for and respond to the spill, and they claimed that Eastman failed to fully warn the storage company about the hazards of the chemical.

According to settlement terms made public Monday, West Virginia American Water agreed to pay up to \$126 million, while Eastman Chemical agreed to pay \$25 million to resolve the lawsuit and all claims stemming from the 2014 spill. The companies, which have denied the allegations, admitted no fault in settlements they reached separately with the plaintiffs.

West Virginia American Water said in a statement that the settlement will allow it to move forward without the distraction of ongoing litigation, and it noted that government investigations into the chemical spill have never found that the company violated any law during the water crisis.

“We still firmly believe the suits brought against our company were without merit,” the water company said.

An Eastman spokeswoman said the company denies any liability related to the 2014 chemical spill but negotiated a settlement to provide benefits and closure to the community.

The case had been scheduled for trial beginning Oct. 25, but U.S. District Judge John Copenhaver, Jr., delayed the start to allow settlement talks to continue.

West Virginia American Water agreed not to raise rates to recoup the \$4 million it said it spent responding to the chemical spill, or to recover settlement payments.

Kevin Thompson, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said the settlement was a fair result because it avoided protracted litigation. “It could have taken years to determine how much people would have gotten in compensation,” he said. “So this settlement achieved the ends of justice.”

In September the U.S. Chemical Safety Board, an independent federal agency charged with investigating chemical accidents, said the storage-tank operator Freedom Industries failed to internally inspect its corroding tanks before the accident, and that maintenance could have prevented the spill. The company declared bankruptcy shortly after the spill.

Write to Kris Maher at [kris.maher@wsj.com](mailto:kris.maher@wsj.com)

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## **Grant to fund lead remediation for 60 Middlesex County dwellings**

By Nikita Biryukov,

12:54 p.m. EDT November 1, 2016

[MyJersey.com](http://MyJersey.com)

An Asbury Park Press analysis of state water testing data shows that at least one sample from four out of five public water systems contained lead between 2013 and 2015.

A number of aging homes in Central Jersey will be remediated in the coming months to better protect young children and pregnant women against lead poisoning.

An \$819,091 grant provided to New-Brunswick-based nonprofit firm PRAB Inc. by the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will allow for safer conditions in 64 homes in Middlesex County, said Jennifer Shamy, a development consultant for PRAB, which has weatherized numerous homes in cooperation with the department in years past.

“It’s sort of an expansion on our current activity,” she said. “I think that our background in providing weatherization

services for many many years now in partnership with DCA was helpful. It certainly demonstrates our capacity to do the work, no question. But as far as lead abatement and remediation, this is a new program.”

The grant is expected to fund lead remediation for 60 county dwellings and will focus on the hazards presented by lead paint, according to the DCA.

“The intent is to make dwellings lead-safe by temporary controlling the lead-based hazard,” she said. “You repair certain rotted substances, or you stabilize the paint surfaces and things like that, but you're not necessarily removing (the lead-based paint), but it eliminates the issue.”

The methods used to remediate homes will range from repairs to doors and building components to treatment of surfaces where lead paint could be present, among other similar activities, Shamy said.

Four more homes are slated to receive lead abatements, which provide permanent control of lead paint hazards, she said. Abatements will be coordinated with the New Jersey Department of Health, which will assist PRAB with crafting abatement orders and plans that will decide how funds are distributed.

“It's more rare that you would need to do the abatement activities to resolve the issue,” Shamy said, referring to elevated lead levels that MyCentralJersey.com, in 2015, reported afflicted 220,000 New Jersey children. “The lead issues leading to the lead levels in children can be resolved with their remediation activities, typically.”

Since news of the lead crisis in Flint, Michigan, spread last year, lead has become a hot-button issue in New Jersey, a state where 5.9 percent of the population is less than 5 years old and in which, according to a 2013 RealyTrac report, more than 75 percent of dwellings are classified as “older homes.”

The program will target lead paint in a portion of homes built before 1978, which, according to the DCA, is the largest contributor to heightened blood lead levels in children.

PRAB’s award is the smallest portion of a state pilot program that provided \$10 million in grants split up among eight New Jersey nonprofits that will ultimately fund lead remediations for more than 500 homes.

The Elizabeth-based nonprofit PROCEED received the largest award — of roughly \$2.2 million for lead remediations in Union County and parts of Elizabeth and Plainfield. The firm did not respond to questions regarding how many dwellings in Plainfield would benefit, but the DCA estimates that PROCEED will remediate 98 homes.

The department acknowledged that the pilot program would not target all lead hazards, including those from leaded pipes.

In May, the New Brunswick School Board ordered tests of its district’s water fountains that found 14 locations in need of remediation. One of those locations — a water fountain at McKinley Community School — reported lead levels more than 12 times larger than the Environmental Protection Agency’s action level of 15 parts per billion.

To combat the potential effects of aging systems, the New Jersey Department of Health is launching NO LEAD, a public education campaign to inform parents about the dangers of lead exposure and to encourage them to get their children tested as early as age 1.

“Over the last 20 years, the incidence of elevated blood levels in New Jersey children was nearly cut in half, even as 20 times more children were tested,” Health Commissioner Cathleen Bennett said in a statement. “Through this new campaign, we will continue working with our partners to decrease these numbers and educate parents about exposure risks.”

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## **Protect your family against lead poisoning**

10/31/2016

Courier News, The

Lead seepage into the drinking water in Flint, Michigan, which has been blamed for a public-health crisis there, has caused

many to take a more careful look at their water supply and suppliers, for lead contamination.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), lead poisoning is considered the most preventable environmental disease among young children, yet approximately a half-million U.S. children have blood lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter, the threshold at which the CDC, recommends public health actions be initiated. A blood test can give you information that could prevent permanent damage.

In New Jersey, a number of school districts have focused on water testing, following the N.J. Department of Environmental Protection's March development of a water testing regimen for the presence of lead in all schools in the Newark Public Schools system. The plan included all 67 school locations in the district, with initial sampling of the 30 school district buildings that recorded elevated levels of lead on certain taps in results that spurred the study.

As part of the plan, every faucet or fountain in a school building where people can take a drink of water and every food preparation sink, was to be tested. The plan called for proper collection of the data by water testing laboratories, quality assurance, chain of custody and documentation.

"We are working closely with the Newark Public Schools system to execute a plan to get a comprehensive understanding of any levels of lead within the district buildings, especially with the 30 schools recently identified with elevated levels," NJDEP Commissioner Bob Martin said when the program was implemented.. "Schools impacted by elevated lead levels in the most recent round of sampling will remain on bottled water until the tap water is deemed safe to drink."

The NJDEP then advised the Newark Public Schools system to temporarily utilize alternate water sources in 30 district school buildings. The Newark Public Schools system acted immediately on the recommendation, the NJDEP said. The school district also identified and delivered alternate supplies of water for drinking and food preparation as classes continued.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services says that today at least 4 million households have children living in them that are being exposed to high levels of lead. There are approximately a half- million U.S. children ages 1 to 5 with blood lead levels above 5 micrograms per deciliter.

Many homeowners now are wondering how to protect themselves and their families from exposure.

Protecting everyone, but most especially children from exposure to lead, is important to health. No safe blood lead level in children has been identified, the CDC states, adding: Even low levels of lead in blood have been shown to affect IQ, ability to pay attention and academic achievement. The effects of lead exposure cannot be corrected.

Oct. 23 to 29 was Lead Poisoning Prevention Week, so now is a good time to consider safety measures concerning lead exposure and contamination.

"To prevent lead exposure in the home from water, use only cold water to prepare food, drinks and baby formula," said Christopher Crockett, chief environmental officer of Aqua America, parent company of water utility Aqua New Jersey, which covers the Hunterdon County municipalities Lebanon Township, Califon and Bloomsbury boroughs.

"Clean out the refrigerator and the screen on the faucet monthly. When you first use water for the day, run the water until it reaches a steady temperature. This should take about 30 seconds to two minutes and allows fresh water from the water main in the street to come into the home and flush out the stagnant water that has been sitting in your home that could have been exposed to lead in plumbing and faucets.

"Simple steps like keeping your home clean and well-maintained go a long way in preventing lead exposure. To reduce exposure from potential lead paint in the home you should clean around painted areas where friction can generate dust, such as doors, windows and drawers, and wipe these areas with a wet sponge or rag to remove paint chips or dust. To prevent lead exposure from soil and dust you should wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers and toys often, teach children to wipe and remove their shoes and to wash their hands after playing outdoors."

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, testing your home's drinking water is the only way to confirm if lead is present. Most water systems test for lead at a certain number of homes as a regular part of water monitoring. These

tests give a systemwide picture of whether corrosion is being controlled but do not reflect conditions at each home served by that water system. Since each home has different plumbing pipes and materials, test results are likely to be different for each home.

The EPA suggests testing your water if:

Your home has lead pipes (lead is a dull gray metal that is soft enough to be easily scratched with a house key);

Your nonplastic plumbing was installed before 1986.

Lead testing kits can be purchased in home-improvement stores. After using the kits for collection, the kit should be sent to a certified laboratory for analysis. Lists of certified laboratories generally are available from your state or local drinking-water authority. You also may find local contact information for testing your water for lead by calling EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800-426-4791.

The EPA also offers these tips if your home tests positive for lead:

Flush your pipes before drinking, and only use cold water for cooking and drinking. Anytime the water in a particular faucet has not been used for six hours or longer, flush your cold-water pipes by running the water until it becomes cold. Contact your water utility to verify flushing times for your area.

Consider replacing lead-containing plumbing fixtures. If you are considering this, keep in mind that the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that only lead-free pipe, solder or flux may be used in the installation or repair of a public water system, or any plumbing in residential or non-residential facility providing water for human consumption. "Lead-free" under the SDWA means that solders and flux may not contain more than 0.2 percent lead, and pipe, pipe fittings, and well pumps may not contain more than 8.0 percent lead. Beginning January 2014, changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act further reduced the maximum allowable lead content of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures to 0.25 percent. SDWA also requires plumbing fittings and fixtures intended to dispense water for human consumption meet a lead leaching standard.

Consider alternative sources or treatment of water. If you discover that you have high levels of lead in your home, you should consider using bottled water or a water filter. There are many home water filters that are certified for effective lead reduction, but devices that are not designed to remove lead will not work. Verify the claims of manufacturers by checking with independent certifying organizations. Refer to the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance procedures. If not maintained properly, some treatment devices may increase lead and other contaminant levels.

"Young children and babies are exposed to lead because they often put their hands and toys into their mouths, which is bad if they are contaminated with lead from dust or soil," Aqua America's Crockett said. "Children may also be exposed to lead by eating food or drinking water containing lead, eating or drinking from dishes or glasses that contain lead, inhaling lead dust from lead-based paint or lead-contaminated soil or from playing with toys with lead paint. Lead from soils can be ingested from playing outside in contaminated soils or tracked inside the home and ingested via crawling on the floor. Children can be exposed to lead in water from a home faucet and drinking or using hot water for baby formula and food preparation."

For more information concerning lead, log on to <http://www.nj.gov/dep/watersupply/dwc-lead.html> or <http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/lead/> or <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

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## **Opinion: Time for New York Schools to Get the Lead Out**

by Heather Leibowitz

November 02, 2016

Gotham Gazette

With National Lead Poisoning Prevention Week coming to a close, it's important to reflect on the work needed to reduce our children's exposure to lead and prevent its serious health effects. Over the past year, the nation has watched a tragedy unfold in Flint, Michigan, as an entire community's drinking water was contaminated with lead. But the problem extends

well beyond Flint. In nearly 2,000 communities in every state across the country, tests have confirmed lead in the water coming out of residents' taps. In fact, lead is even contaminating drinking water in schools and pre-schools, right here in New York.

It's time to take the steps necessary to eliminate this serious health risk.

Lead is highly toxic, and it's especially damaging to kids – impairing how they learn, grow, and behave. Lead can also cause high blood pressure, and even damage the nervous system and kidneys. According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, our kids will cumulatively lose an estimated 23 million IQ points from lead exposure – mostly due to a high number of children exposed to low levels of lead.

Yet tests have confirmed that schools in New York City, Westchester, Long Island, and New York's Capital Region have had lead in the water flowing from their faucets or fountains. And in all likelihood, that is just the tip of the iceberg. Most schools in New York have at least some lead in the pipes, plumbing, or fixtures that deliver the water our children drink. And where there is lead, there is risk.

Medical and public health experts are unanimous: there is no "safe" level of lead for our children. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) agree, yet water utilities are only required to take action when tests show lead in drinking water at 15 parts per billion in 10 percent of results.

Fortunately, some progress is being made in New York to get lead out of drinking water. Last month, Governor Cuomo signed landmark legislation, which includes the toughest lead contamination testing standards in the nation, and mandates that schools across the state test drinking water for lead contamination. While this is a good first step, more work is needed to ensure that our children are truly protected from lead contamination in schools' water.

Given the threat to our children's health, it's time for New York to "get the lead out." Ideally, this means pro-actively removing lead-bearing parts from schools' drinking water systems – from service lines to faucets and fountains – and installing certified filters at taps and fountains used for drinking or cooking. At the very least, schools should regularly and properly test all water outlets used for drinking or cooking and immediately remove from service those where the water contains any lead. Schools should also provide the public with easy access to specific testing data and the status of remediation plans.

And of course, we need to remove the lead contamination threat not just in schools but throughout our communities. In September, Congress took a first key step to help communities do just that. The U.S. Senate version of the Water Resources Development Act includes money for Flint, as well as a small grant program for communities here in New York and across the country to remove lead pipes and otherwise reduce risks of lead contaminating our water, plus \$20 million for schools to test for lead. Congress should quickly approve this funding when it returns after Election Day.

Additionally, the New York Legislature should match it with state funds in the spring.

School is where our children go each day to learn and develop. It's time for our leaders to "get the lead out" before it's too late.

Heather Leibowitz, Esq. is the Director of Environment New York, a statewide advocacy organization. On Twitter @EnvNY.

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## **Officials tout safety of water in North Brunswick**

By JENNIFER AMATO

November 1, 2016

Great Media Newspapers

**NORTH BRUNSWICK** — Representatives from New Jersey American Water flooded the North Brunswick Municipal Building to discuss water quality issues in town.

North Brunswick provides water through a contract with American Water, which oversees the water treatment plant in town, North Brunswick Business Administrator Kathryn Monzo said during a special meeting on Oct. 26.

Jim Grootenboer, the general manager for American Water, added that the surface water treatment plant takes water from the D&R Canal at an average of 5.2 million gallons per day, which is expected to increase with the additional development at MainStreetNB.

He said a pre-clarification unit removes heavy particles that are then transferred to units so that the water can meet turbidity standards.

Grootenboer said that raw water and the treated, finished water are tested for cryptosporidium, a microscopic parasite that is not easily destroyed by disinfectants. He said that North Brunswick's raw water showed only one cyst, and the treated water had zero.

"There's no problem here with the D&R Canal with cryptosporidium," he said.

He also said North Brunswick received the Director's Award from the Partnership for Safe Water, which makes the township the first surface water/potable water plant to reach that level.

"We are putting out better water, meaning higher standards," he said.

In regards to the situation in Flint, Michigan, where abnormally high levels of lead were detected last year, Grootenboer said North Brunswick does not have too much concern in the way of lead.

He said that the township has met every action level of the lead-copper rule, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has placed the town on reduced sampling every three years. He said that a minimum of 30 homes have to be tested for lead service and/or copper plumbing with lead solder, which mostly applies to homes constructed from 1982-86.

"We have not found any actual lead service lines from the street to the house," he said.

Since 1991, Grootenboer said North Brunswick has met the action level at the 90th percentile for lead and copper, and only one time did a customer exceed the action level. He said the company continues to find homes that have about a 1-foot-long section from the right of way at the main in the street to the curb stop, which if found must be replaced.

He also said that samples from June to August of this year are "non-detected," meaning that they are below the required level.

However, representatives noted that the school buildings do not apply to the same EPA rulings for lead and copper, but that New Jersey established a deadline of July to test schools for lead.

In addition, Grootenboer mentioned that American Water monitors chlorine on a .2 to 4 parts per million scale to ensure that there is enough chlorine to prevent regrowth of bacteria, but not too much to cause an objectionable taste or smell.

Furthermore, a recent article citing North Brunswick as one of 138 towns that exceeded the public health goal for chromium-6 was somewhat misleading, according to officials, because the article compared California's goal of zero to that of North Brunswick, which is 100.

Monzo said the cost for the water treatment plant is \$7.5 million per year, which includes about \$3 million in debt service to pay for any needed capital improvements.

Grootenboer said that two filter buildings were taken out of service around 2009 and replaced by a new filter building and an administrative building. There were some modifications to the tanks, and a computerized automated system was installed.

He said the company is trying to prioritize any needed capital projects for the next 10 years.

"Right now with the new filters, new media, everything is working from that standpoint," he said.

Monzo said the rate on the water bill depends on usage, which covers the operation of the plant.

Grootenboer said that representatives use their gun to read the meter, which uploads the bill into the system and automatically calculates the rate. He said an alarm goes off if the rate is higher or lower than a resident's average bill.

He also noted that township residents are receiving a new water bill because the billing office moved from Hershey, Pennsylvania, to the North Brunswick plant location. Payment should be made to North Brunswick Township and the bill pay address has changed to Township of North Brunswick, P.O. Box 1209, Belle Mead, NJ 08502.

Contact Jennifer Amato at [jamato@gmnews.com](mailto:jamato@gmnews.com).

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## **The New Yorker who kayaks to work: 45-minute commute includes kayaking, walk**

By Sophie Eastaugh CNN

Published 11/01 2016 10:02AM

INFORM NY

For many of us the morning commute can be a dreaded necessity, featuring gridlocked traffic and a troubling proximity to strangers.

But for Zach Schwitzky, it's a blissful escape from the nonstop hustle of New York city life. In fact, it's a moment he relishes each day, since the entrepreneur makes his trip into Manhattan via a rather unusual method -- by kayak.

"There's not a lot of places in New York City where you can truly be by yourself and not hear anything, not feel there's people around," Schwitzky told CNN.

"The mornings are beautiful, especially at this time of year. If I leave early enough it's foggy and sort of looks like Gotham -- you've got the sun rising and the city appearing through the fog. It's the perfect way to start the day."

### Practical solution

Living in Hoboken, New Jersey, the other side of the Hudson river to Manhattan, Schwitzky kayaks across the water in around 20 minutes.

He arrives at Pier 66, West 26th street, where he stores his kayak at the Marina and walks the rest of the way to work -- all in all, it's a 45 minute commute.

Until his business moved further across town, Schwitzky wheeled the canoe ten blocks there on a dolly -- "I'd get some looks from people wondering what a guy was doing pulling a 12-foot boat through the streets of Manhattan."

The idea came to Schwitzky and a friend after a late night wait at Port Authority's bus terminal -- the pair were fed up with their daily schlep by boat, bus or car to the office.

Now after four years commuting by kayak, it feels so logical to the New Jerseyan that other means of crossing the river "certainly don't compare."

"It doesn't cost us anything, we can come and go as we please. The hours we keep it's difficult to get work outs in, so this doubled as great exercise," said Schwitzky, CEO of video analytics firm Limbik.

His friend has since moved to Florida, so as far as he knows he's the only person to paddle to work in Manhattan.

"It's great to be outdoors -- we say half-jokingly it's sort of New York City's version of nature, peace and quiet. Then as sort of a cherry on top, there's no carbon footprint."

### Carbon-free commute



Transportation is one of the largest contributors of greenhouse gases in the US, second only to the electricity sector.

Its impact is increasing -- according to the Environmental Protection Agency, population growth and rising demand for travel have meant that transport emissions have gone up 17% since 1990.

But small changes as individuals can make a big difference collectively. A 2015 study by the Institute of Transport Development Policy found that if urban bicycle use reached the levels of cities like Amsterdam and Copenhagen, the sector's CO2 emissions could be cut by 11% by 2050 -- saving the global economy US\$24 trillion.

Together with his enjoyment of getting out on the water, the environmental benefit was an added bonus to Schwitzky's choice.

"When you have these big problems, they seem insurmountable and nobody wants to do anything because they think they can't make a difference. But if everybody did a little bit, collectively that's going to amount to a whole lot."

The canoe commuter insists the process is "really hassle-free," and aside from getting pulled over late one evening by a confused NYPD boat, sirens wailing, he has never had any uncomfortable moments on the water.

"I've never tipped over, never come close. So I always feel very safe out there and obviously being the smallest out there you just stay out of everybody's way."

"Being out there, especially at night, is probably the best part about this whole thing. You don't hear anything and besides the moon or the lights of the city it's not bright, there's nobody around, it's very peaceful. It's the best way to end the day."

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### **Non-smokers: Be Aware**

By Maggie McCracken

Nov 1, 2016

Finger Lakes Times

We often conflate lung cancer with cigarettes. Yet, a solid 20% of people who die from lung cancer never smoke a day in their lives. While it's true that smoking is strongly correlated with lung cancer, it's not the only lifestyle variable that can predict your chances of developing this often-fatal disease.

#### **At Home & Work**

Radon gas may be less frequently talked about than cigarette smoking, but exposure to it is a clear predictor of lung cancer. According to Angela Tin, vice president of Environmental Health for the American Lung Association, any home in any part of the United States could be affected by radon gas pollution.

"Radon is the result of radioactive decay of uranium," she says. "The radioactive gas enters our homes and can result in DNA damage, thereby causing lung cancer."

Any home is susceptible to radon gas pollution, which is why it's important to test for it. You can do some simple at-home tests to figure out whether there is any cause for concern. If you're uneasy about completing the test yourself, you can bring in a certified professional to do the test.

Occupational hazards such as exposure to asbestos and time spent in mines and industrial plants can also cause lung cancer. Cancer.org recommends limiting your exposure to these substances, if possible. If you work around asbestos, your best bet is to wear a respirator, as paper dust masks don't filter out asbestos fibers, according to the Minnesota Department of Health.

#### **It's In the Air**

Air pollution is another known perpetuator of lung cancer, says Cancer.org.

Everything from nearby combustion sources to mobile transportation vehicles—including standard compact cars—can pollute the air around us, increasing our chances of developing lung cancer.

If you live in polluted areas, Tin says, you should be on particularly close watch for signs and symptoms, including a cough that doesn't go away, chest pain, hoarseness, wheezing, and feeling tired and weak.

## Reduce Your Risk

It may seem like, apart from smoking, many of the risk factors for developing lung cancer are unavoidable.

While you may not be able to change the nature of your job, move out of the city where you live, or sell your home simply because of a radon problem, you can take steps to create a cleaner, safer environment for yourself and your family.

First, evaluate the danger level of radon levels in and around your home. The American Lung Association provides information on how to find a professional, or it can provide you with a kit to perform the test yourself.

“We operate a radon and lung cancer hotline and provide radon test kits,” Tin says.

Help make the world a safer and cleaner place—and reduce pollution—by adopting more environmentally friendly practices in your day-to-day life, Tin says.

Taking public transportation can dramatically decrease the amount of environmental toxins generated per capita. So can choosing cleaner consumer products, such as all-natural cleaners and detergents. It's also a huge bonus if you can support the use of clean energy sources such as wind and solar power.

“Provide a better indoor health environment by reducing chemical usage, using green building materials and avoiding the use of combustion sources like fireplaces,” she says.

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## **New York Adopts Stricter Emissions Limits on Generators for Buildings: Rules cover diesel generators or gas-fired engines used to supply backup power to hospitals, offices**

Associated Press

Nov. 1, 2016 6:24 p.m. ET

Wall St. Journal

Photo: The tougher emissions limits apply to generators that produce more than 150 kilowatts of power in New York City, shown here, and more than 300 kilowatts in the rest of the state.

ALBANY, N.Y.—New York state now has tougher emission limits for diesel generators and natural gas-fired engines commonly used to supply backup power in large buildings like hospitals and offices.

Democratic Gov. Andrew Cuomo's administration said Tuesday that the new air-quality standards are intended to reduce emissions of nitrogen oxides and particulates, which are linked to smog and respiratory problems in people.

The rules cover large generators that produce more than 150 kilowatts in the New York City area and more than 300 kilowatts in the rest of the state.

Owners of generators with emissions higher than the new limits are required to upgrade their air-quality-control equipment. Certain generators operated by local government agencies will be given extra time to be brought into compliance.

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## **Colonial Pipeline Has Faced Problems in Past : Pipeline operator has experienced safety issues dating back to 1996**

By Alison Sider and Nicole Friedman

Nov. 1, 2016 7:39 p.m. ET

The Colonial pipeline has had safety issues in the past.

In 1996, Colonial’s main line ruptured on the Reedy River in Greenville County, S.C., releasing 22,800 barrels of diesel. The Office of Pipeline Safety designated Colonial as “hazardous” and pointed to systemwide problems. Colonial Pipeline Co. later pleaded guilty to negligence and paid \$7 million in Clean Water Act fines.

In 2003, Colonial entered a consent decree with the Justice Department and Environmental Protection Agency to resolve seven spills, including the Reedy River incident. Colonial agreed to pay \$34 million, the largest civil penalty in EPA history at the time. The company also agreed to make \$30 million of upgrades to its system. Colonial declined to comment on its safety record.

In 1962, Suwannee Pipe Line Co. changed its name to Colonial Pipeline, reflecting the states that its planned pipeline would cross on its way to New York Harbor. That March, the company outlined what it called the largest single, privately financed construction project in U.S. history and a product of the postwar effort to power a U.S. housing and manufacturing boom.

The pipeline, owned by Koch Industries Inc., South Korea’s National Pension Service, KKR & Co., a Quebec pension fund, Shell Pipeline Co., Shell Midstream Partners LP and IFM Investors, carries an average of 100 million gallons of refined products a day.

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